bone repair comprising applying a porous, biodegradable, three-dimensionally stable matrix having shape retention comprising fibrillar collagen, polyethylene glycol (or gelatin) and hydroxy apatite. This rejection is respectfully traversed and withdrawal is requested. The biopolymer used in Rhee is a collagen-polymer conjugate. However, it is not mineralized, but rather is merely mixed with particulate materials. See column 7, lines 37-49. By contrast, applicants' biopolymer matrix is fixed such that the mineral is immobilized on the matrix. See specification, page 9, lines 26-33. Therefore, Rhee does not anticipate the present claims and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 14, 2002

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

(Twice amended): A method of bone repair comprising the step of applying a composition comprising a porous, biodegradable, three-dimensionally stable matrix having shape retention comprising a bound network of water-insoluble mineralized biopolymer having mineral immobilized thereon and a water-insoluble binder, effective to promote bone growth at a desired site of bone repair.